

Frederick Wissman House, Outbuilding
River Street Historic District
65 N. River Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2368-A

HABS
CAL
43-SANJOS,
38A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HABSCAL
43-SANJOS,
33A-

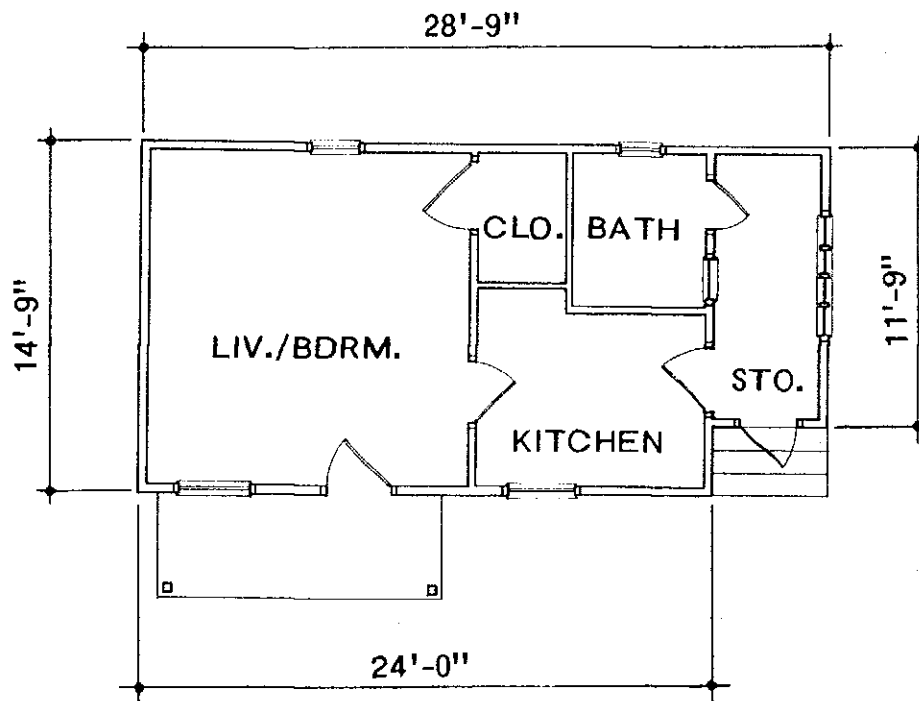
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Frederick Wissman House, Outbuilding

HABS No. CA-2368-A

- Location:** 65 North River Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, Santa Clara County, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597700-4132240
- Significance:** The Frederick Wissman House Outbuilding, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.
- Description:** This Frederick Wissman House Outbuilding is a one story, rectangular-plan, wood frame structure clad in channel rustic siding, with a gabled roof. A flat roofed porch with chamfered posts extends forward, but is severely deteriorated. The plan is basically divided into two halves, with the south half containing the living/bedroom area and the north half containing the kitchen, bathroom, and closet. A shed roofed porch on the north end acts as a covered connection between the kitchen and the bathroom. This shed, clad with board-and-batten siding, contains four small square screen windows on the north wall and concrete access stairs on the east elevation.
- History:** The main house, constructed around 1875, one of the oldest structures in the district, is a good representation of what San Jose looked like before the influx of Italian immigrants. The house was built by Frederick Wissman, a German immigrant and plumber by trade. The cottage was built approximately in 1890 as a rental unit and has been occupied by a large number of tenants. By 1910, the main house was occupied by Wissman's widow, his daughter, and son-in-law George Asselin, an English immigrant who was a clerk at the Red Cross Drug Store. By the 1920s, the house was owned by John Silveira, a Portuguese immigrant farmer, and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth Silveira continued to occupy the main house until 1941.
- Sources:** California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories
San Jose 1924 Block Map
Evaluation of the district's outbuildings, prepared by Basin Research Associates, 1990.
- Historian:** Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993

Frederick Wissman House, Outbuilding
HABS No. CA-2368-A (Page 2)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1' - 0"